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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,075	10/06/2003	Victor G. Stimpson	110116.01	4058
25944	7590	06/23/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC				SOHN, SEUNG C
P.O. BOX 19928				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2878		

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/678,075	STIMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Seung C. Sohn	2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on th cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-23 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 11-23 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1003</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. ***Claims 11-18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skunes et al. (Patent No. US 5,293,048).***

Regarding claims 11-18 and 21, Skunes et al. shows in Figs. 3 & 6 a light source (60) which generates a beam of light near a path of the rotating object (42, drill bit); a detector (70) for receiving the beam of light and for producing a signal indicative of an extent of light received by the detector; and a signal processor (Fig. 6, i.e., sensor electronics) for processing the signal from the detector and for producing an output; wherein the signal processor processes the signal from the detector and produces the output (BEAM DETECT) only after a delay, approximately equal to at least the time taken for one revolution of the object (the presence of the object may be verified after each repetitive motion sequence, see abstract), following the generation of the signal resulting from a predetermined extent of light at the detector, and only if the predetermined extent of light is present at the detector at the end of the delay (Col. 9, line 14 – Col. 10, line 18).

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. ***Claims 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takanashi (Patent No. US 6,111,262).***

Regarding claims 22-23, Takanashi discloses the steps of rotating the object (4, i.e., crystal); causing a beam of light to be illuminated onto a detector (8, i.e., CCD camera); positioning the beam of light to detect the maximum radius of the rotating object (Col. 1, lines 51-56); generating a signal from the detector whenever the beam of light on the detector achieves a predetermined intensity; and monitoring each signal from the detector and producing an output only if two successive signals (detected first intersection point and detected second intersection point) occur having an interval between them that is substantially equal to the period of one rotation of the object (Col. 4, lines 16-34).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. *Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skunes et al. (Patent No. US 5,293,048) in view of Gelston (Patent No. US 5,940,787).*

Regarding claims 19-20, Skunes et al. shows the claimed invention as above, but is silent that the signal processor includes a memory. Gelston shows in Fig. 2 the memory (34). It would have been obvious to provide a memory of Gelston to the device of Skunes et al. for the purpose of identifying waveform patterns (Col. 5, lines 49-65).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seung C. Sohn whose telephone number is (571) 272-2446. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2878

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THANH X. LUU
PATENT EXAMINER

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